

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INT-05

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 SS-15 ITC-01 USIA-06

SOE-02 DOE-11 /118 W

-----124100 160637Z /11

R 151926Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5509

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05151

USEEC

GENEVA FOR MTN DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE IN MTN

REF: (A) STATE 60561, (B) PARIS 8411

1. AS KAWAN NOT AVAILABLE, MISSION OFFICER MADE POINTS IN REFTEL A TO HIS DEPUTY JONSSON, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING EC REQUESTS FROM EASTERN EUROPEANS, ON MARCH 14. JONSSON, WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN OECD TCWP DISCUSSION ON MARCH 7-8 (REFTEL B), WAS FAMILIAR WITH US ARGUMENTS AGAINST USE OF SECTORAL IMPORT COMMITMENTS (SIC.S) FROM EASTERN EUROPEANS, WHETHER ON A BILATERAL OR GLOBAL BASIS. HE INDICATED THAT, NONETHELESS, EC PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH NOTIFICATION OF ITS REQUESTS FOR SIC.S ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND WILL MOST
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LIKELY BE READY TO CIRCULATE REQUESTS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. HE ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO BROAD CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS MENTIONED IN REF B, EC WAS ALSO LIKELY TO ASK FOR SIC.S ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND PHARMACEUTICALS.

2. ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, JONSSON NOTED THAT

USG CONSIDERS THAT BILATERAL COMMITMENTS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE GATT. HE ADDED THAT EC APPROACH ON AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN DECIDED SOMEWHAT HASTILY (SEEMING TO IMPLY THAT, WERE IT NOT FOR THE BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES OF OBTAINING MEMBER STATE APPROVAL, COMMISSION WOULD CONSIDER CHANGING ITS APPROACH).

3. ON STANDARDS CODE, JONSSON AGREED THAT US ARGUMENTS ABOUT UTILITY OF EE ADHERENCE MADE SENSE. LIKE KAWAN IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS, HE DISMISSED EE TARIFFS AS MEANINGLESS AND THEREFORE SAW LITTLE POINT IN ASKING THEM TO ADHERE TO A CUSTOMS VALUATION CODE.

4. ON BUSINESS FACILITATION, JONSSON WAS HIGHLY FAMILIAR WITH US REQUESTS TO POLAND AND ROMANIA AND INDICATED THAT EC PLANNED TO MAKE ALMOST ALL OF THE SAME REQUESTS ITSELF.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM MISSION OFFICER, JONSSON SAID THAT COMMISSION FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT EE.S MUST MAKE CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR BENEFITS THEY WILL RECEIVE THROUGH MFN TARIFF REDUCTIONS BY MTN PARTICIPANTS. COMMISSION HAS NOT YET DECIDED COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD EE'S REJECT EC REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SIC.S TOTALLY, BUT PRESENT EC THINKING IS THAT IT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETALIATE ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO EASTERN EUROPEANS. JONSSON SAID THAT COMMISSION HAS NOT YET BEGUN PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING PRODUCTS ON WHICH VARIOUS EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT. HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN DG III (INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL MARKET) HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN AN UNRELATED EXERCISE ON THE SOVIET UNION TEN PRODUCTS HAD BEEN FOUND ON WHICH IT IS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER. MORRIS

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